



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 6, Number 1, February 2020

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

GCD Update

by Claudia Browner

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This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Many organizations are honoring this milestone with a celebration.



**Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the
Americans with Disabilities Act**

SAVE THE DATE

**TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Missouri State Capitol - 1st Floor Rotunda

The Governor's Council on Disability, in collaboration with other state agencies, centers for independent living, disability organizations, and the Great Plains ADA Center, is planning an event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ADA on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at the Missouri State Capitol (1st floor rotunda). Please save the date and join us for this event!

In preparation for this event, the GCD has developed a survey to get input from Missouri citizens on the successes and accomplishments of the ADA and to share visions for an accessible, inclusive future for the next 30 years of the ADA.

To participate in the [ADA30 survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRKZ2K2), please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRKZ2K2>

Stay tuned for more details about the event in the coming weeks.

Disability Rights Legislative Day

by Claudia Browner



We belong.

- In the Classroom
We raise our voices for inclusive education and freedom from restraint and seclusion!
- In the Workplace
We raise our voices for work opportunities and employment first in Missouri!
- In the Community
We raise our voices for supported lives in our homes and communities!

**Disability Rights Legislative Day
March 11, 2020
11am - 2pm**

Rally will be from 12pm to 1pm in the Capitol rotunda, first floor

For more information, contact:
Becky Dickey at (573) 522-1691 or Mark Satterwhite at (573) 874-1995

The 19th annual Disability Rights Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

The event is held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the first floor rotunda of the Missouri State Capitol and is attended by individuals with disabilities, advocates and disability organizations to meet with legislators and bring attention to disability-related topics.

For more information, please contact Becky Dickey at (573) 522-1691 or Mark Satterwhite at (573) 874-1995.

MO-YLF Alumni Updates

by Rachel Rackers

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) alumni are continuing to do great things! At times it can be challenging to keep updates on all 344 alumni, but we always enjoy hearing and sharing what they have been doing. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Steven Gregg received the Fire Explorer of the Year award from Bolivar City Fire Department
- Candace Cunningham was selected as one of the 2020 Missouri Mental Health Champions. She also recently was elected as a Board Member for APSE MO and Summit Future Foundation.
- Camryn Dickinson, Claire Solomon, Alex Ney and Emily Ernest presented at their schools or IL Centers about MO-YLF
- Sarah Schwegel was recently hired by Paraquad as a Public Policy Specialist.
- Kelsey Redding, Kayla Patek and Dylan Farmer have all been nominated for GCD's Youth Leadership Award for 2019
- Madelyn Hubbs has continued her journey as a 2020 National Patient Ambassador for Shriner's hospital. Her journey has recently taken her to Tampa, FL for East West Shrine Bowl and Pasadena, CA to be float rider in the Rose Parade. She also has been invited to be a speaker at the 30th anniversary of the ADA celebration on July 28th in at the Missouri State Capitol.



We are very proud of our MO-YLF alumni. Keep doing great things and continue as leaders in your communities and beyond!

Photos: Steven Gregg proudly displays his Fire Explorer of the Year award; Madelyn Hubbs with the college football team at the East West Shrine Bowl game

Apply Now for the 2020 MO-YLF

by Rachel Rackers



The 2020 Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) will be held July 14th-18th at the University of Missouri Columbia campus.

This leadership and career development program is for Missouri high school students with disabilities, ages 16-21.

Applications for staff, volunteers and delegates are now available on GCD's website. The deadline for delegate applications is March 31st and staff applications are due May 1st.

The MO-YLF planning committee encourages you to spread the word about MO-YLF and to come experience this life-changing week!

For more information and the online application, please visit <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm> or contact Rachel Rackers in the GCD office at (573) 526-4564.

New Leadership Development Program

by Claudia Browner



Thursday, June 18th - Sunday, June 21st
Missouri School for the Deaf
505 E 5th St, Fulton, MO

This 4-day camp is designed to enhance and improve leadership, self-advocacy skills, and employability for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

- Residential camp at the Missouri School for the Deaf
- Open to students 16-21 with school recommendation

Register by March 2nd:
disability.mo.gov/gcd/LDPDHH.htm



For more information contact Rachel Rackers at 573-526-4564
or rachel.rackers@oa.mo.gov

New in 2020, a Leadership Development Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing high school students is being offered June 18-21, 2020 at Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton.

The Leadership Development Program is hosted by the Governor's Council on Disability in collaboration with Missouri School for the Deaf, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, MU Pre-Employment Transition Services, Paraquad, and Vocational Rehabilitation.

If you know of any students who might be qualified for this program, please encourage them to apply.

Applications are now being accepted and can be found online at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/LDPDHH.htm>

The deadline for applications is March 2, 2020.

2020 Legislative Education Project

by Laura Mueth

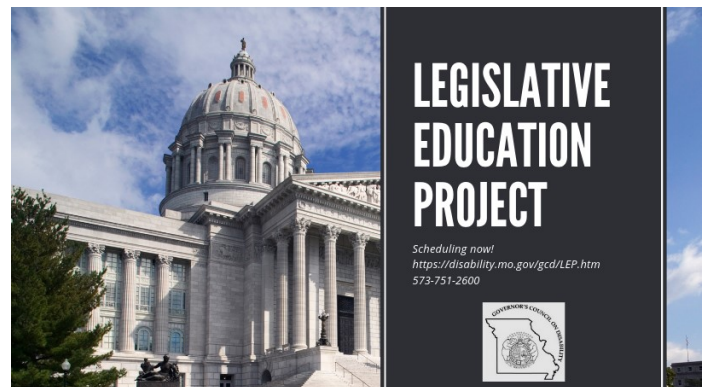
The [Legislative Education Project](#) (LEP) is under way for 2020. The purpose of the LEP is to educate individuals about the legislative process in Missouri and provide opportunities to become more active in creating positive public policies for people with disabilities.

Three LEP on the Road trainings are already scheduled. The first is in Kansas City in mid February, the second is in St. Louis in late February, and the third is in Jefferson County in early March. Two LEPs at the Capitol are scheduled for March.

If you are interested in scheduling an LEP for your group of ten or more please contact Laura Mueth at Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov.

If you do not have time or a minimum of ten individuals, watching the online videos and recorded Power Points is an option. More information about the LEP can be found at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/LEP.htm>.

If you are already familiar with the legislative process but would like to stay updated on disability-related bills throughout the legislative session, you can subscribe to the weekly [Legislative Update](#) newsletter by contacting Laura Mueth or visiting the website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/legupdates.htm>.



Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Chip Hailey, Joplin
- Mary Ann Harter, St. Louis
- Rosemary Hendon, West Plains
- Katie Jones, St. Charles
- Kim Lackey, St. Louis
- Elijah Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Columbia
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Andrew Sartorius, Jefferson City
- Lesia Shelton, Buffalo
- Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Jefferson City
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Claudia Browner, Executive Director
- Laura Mueth, Disability Program Specialist
- Rachel Rackers, Disability Program Specialist
- Jessica Zimmer, Administrative Office Support Assistant

New Online Reporting of Abuse and Neglect

by Claudia Browner



Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-392-0210

Make a difference. Make the call.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is now offering online reporting of concerns of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and disabled in addition to the

phone hotline. The online reporting allows mandated reporters to report a concern during nighttime hours when the hotline is not in operation. Persons who are deaf and hard of hearing may use Relay Missouri by calling 1-800-735-2466.

To report an incident online, go to https://apps4.mo.gov/APS_Portal/

For more information, visit the DHSS website at: <https://health.mo.gov/seniors/abuse.php>

Upcoming Events

- March 10, 2020 [MOAIDD Self-Determination & Advocacy Conference](#), Columbia
- March 11, 2020 Disability Rights Legislative Day, State Capitol, Jefferson City
- March 23-27, 2020 Legislative Spring Break
- March 30-31, 2020 [Power Up Assistive Technology Conference & Expo](#), Columbia
- May 10-13, 2020 [National ADA Symposium](#), Kansas City
- May 15, 2020 Last Day of Session
- June 18-21, 2020 [Leadership Development Program for Deaf/HH](#), Fulton
- June 23, 2020 [Missouri Mental Health Champions' Banquet](#), Jefferson City
- July 14-18, 2020 [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#), Columbia
- July 28, 2020 ADA30— Anniversary Celebration, State Capitol, Jefferson City



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 6, Number 2, April 2020

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

GCD names Annual Award Winners

by Claudia Browner

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The [Governor's Council on Disability \(GCD\)](#) has selected the award winner and honorable mention of the **28th Annual Inclusion Award** and the **7th Annual Youth Leadership Award**.

The Inclusion Award and one Honorable Mention are presented annually to recognize private and public employers, individuals, and organizations that have successfully included people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, leisure activities, and website accessibility.

The 2019 Inclusion Award winner is Artists First, St. Louis and the Honorable Mention goes to BCI Skills Center, St. Peters.

For more information on the [Inclusion Award](#) winners, visit <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclwin.htm>

The annual Youth Leadership Award and one Honorable Mention are presented to recognize an outstanding Missouri youth (age 16-26) with a disability that has demonstrated exemplary leadership by making a difference in their community.

The 2019 Youth Leadership Award winner is Annie Donnell and the Honorable Mention goes to Dylan Farmer.

For more information on the [Youth Leadership Award](#) winners, visit <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipaward.htm>



The awards presentation to the winners had to be postponed, but will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

GCD publishes Accessible Parking PSA

by Claudia Browner

Accessible Parking PSA



Have you seen people park illegally in accessible parking spaces? Have you seen access aisles blocked by vehicles, shopping carts, or snow? Have you had trouble find accessible parking because of the misuse of parking spaces or access aisles by other individuals?

The Governor's Council on Disability has recently published a public service announcement to raise awareness about the importance of saving accessible spaces and access aisles for those who really need them in order to enjoy equal access.

Check out the [Accessible Parking PSA](#) online at <https://youtu.be/4OpEtjbNhgA>

MO-YLF Alumni Spotlight on Dylan Farmer

by Rachel Rackers



In July of 2015, Dylan Farmer attended the [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF), a leadership program for students with disabilities. Shortly after attending MO-YLF, Dylan started college at Maryville University to pursue his Bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Writing and Communications. In May of 2019, Dylan graduated with a near perfect GPA. Then in August, he started full time employment with the National Archives and Records Administration as a Customer Service Archives Technician.

Dylan is a great advocate for himself and other people with disabilities. He worked very hard around campus to abolish many barriers for himself and future students. When Dylan first got to campus as a freshman, there were only two accessible bathrooms on campus—one of which was for use by women only. Dylan saw a need for change and became involved in Maryville's student group called ABLE, a student-led group focused on disability rights, awareness, and accessibility. Together, Dylan and other members advocated for hands free or electronic accessible doors to most bathrooms for all buildings on campus. He also successfully advocated for an accessible sidewalk to a building commonly used for student gatherings.

During his time at Maryville, Dylan worked in the Student Service Center and the Office of Student Life. He completed internships at Salem United Methodist Church and the National Archives and Records Administration. He also served on Maryville's Accessibility Committee as the only student representative. Also, he wrote for Pawprint, which is Maryville's campus newspaper. Dylan's involvement extended off campus too. He volunteered at the Missouri History Museum and Library. Along with being a member of the Disabled Athlete Sports Association (DASA).

Dylan is a prime example for other youth with disabilities, to show them that they can do whatever they put their mind to. He has accomplished a lot and advocated for many things. There is no doubt that Dylan will continue to be a great leader, advocate and mentor in all that he does.

Dylan was nominated for the 2019 [Youth Leadership Award](#) and was selected as the Honorable Mention recipient.

GCD Program Updates

by Claudia Browner

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, most schools are closed and students are completing their coursework from home.

To give students more time to complete applications for the [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) and the [Leadership Development Program for Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#), the Governor's Council on Disability has extended the application deadlines for both programs into April. At this time, we are moving forward with planning these programs. Please stay tuned for updates as they become available.

If you have any questions about the programs, please contact our staff at 573-751-2600 or gcd@oa.mo.gov

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Thursday, June 18th - Sunday, June 21st
Missouri School for the Deaf
505 E 5th St, Fulton, MO

This 4-day camp is designed to enhance and improve leadership, self-advocacy skills, and employability for students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

- Residential camp at the Missouri School for the Deaf
- Open to students 16-21 with school recommendation

Participants do not need to know American Sign Language

Extended to April 3rd!
Register by March 2nd
disability.mo.gov/gcd/LDPDHH.htm

For more information contact Rachel Rackers at 573-526-4564 or rachel.rackers@oa.mo.gov

Don't Forget to Fill Out Your Application Before April 17th!

MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

A FREE UNIQUE CAREER LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AGES 16-21.

JULY 14-18, 2020
AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI CAMPUS IN COLUMBIA

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT
[HTTPS://DISABILITY.MO.GOV/GCD/YLF.HTM](https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/YLF.htm)

Stress versus Anxiety

by Laura Mueth

When I give disability awareness presentations to groups I find that audience members often confuse stress and anxiety. Over the last few weeks I have heard the terms used interchangeably in reference to the current societal changes, but stress and anxiety are two different concepts.

So what is the difference between stress and anxiety? Stress is a physical, mental, or emotional trigger which causes tension in the body or mind. Anxiety is an overwhelming sense of fear and apprehension. Many individuals think they should always alleviate all anxiety. However, a small amount of anxiety can actually be beneficial at certain times such as prior to taking a test or giving a presentation because the small amount of anxiety often leads to better performance. So next time you have some anxiety try to use it to your advantage.

Ways to manage both stress and anxiety include maintaining a healthy lifestyle—eat healthy meals, get plenty of rest, exercise, and breathe. If you are experiencing significant stress or anxiety related to the current health situation, please visit our [COVID-19 resource webpage](https://disability.mo.gov/covid-19.htm) for helpful resource links at <https://disability.mo.gov/covid-19.htm>

The Governor's Council on Disability has created a Web Page with COVID-19 Resources for Individuals with Disabilities

Please visit the page & share with others to get information on the Coronavirus situation!

<https://disability.mo.gov/covid-19.htm>

Experiencing Disability Rights Legislative Day

by Samuel Andersen, MO-YLF Alum

My name is Sam Andersen, a high-school Senior in the Kansas City Metro area and an intern at The Whole Person. In this capacity, I attended my first Disability Rights Legislative Day on March 11th and I must say: it did not disappoint!

The Whole Person brought a busload of disability advocates up to the Capitol to meet with legislators and learn about pending legislation that affects our lives. Our merry little band of roughly 15 people (including a fellow alumnus from the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum) met with nearly a dozen legislators! Whether it was speaking about Restraint and Seclusion in schools (HB 1568), improving Medicaid so people can work without losing benefits (SB 629), or securing and increasing funding for Consumer Directed Services and Centers for Independent Living (HB 2010), our message was welcomed by all the legislators we met with.



On a personal note, I felt empowered by this opportunity to speak with legislators and share our personal experiences. As a wheelchair user trying to navigate the labyrinth that is my transition to adulthood, I've had many times when I felt all alone. Independence is difficult for anyone to achieve, especially with a disability. But this opportunity showed me that no one in the disability community is ever truly alone.

We as a disability community are powerful, for more reasons than one might think. Most notably, we are advocacy experts, because it's essential to our daily lives. But what people don't often see is that we stick up for one another. Our merry band of advocates went to the Capitol to advocate not only for ourselves, but for our thousands of brothers and sisters with various disabilities throughout Missouri. We also have great organizational support from Centers for Independent Living like The Whole Person, agencies like Vocational Rehabilitation, the Governor's Council on Disability, and countless others. And last Wednesday, I heard loud and clear that our elected officials have our backs too!

So, Disability Rights Legislative Day helped me grow as an advocate, but more importantly gave me hope. I now know that our legislators are willing to fight for us, to put in place the governmental support we need to lead independent lives. We just have to tell them what we need! So, thanks to the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council for hosting this great event, thanks to all the legislators that met with us, and thanks to all of you for being such amazing advocates! Let's go out and keep the momentum going!

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
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- Jessica Zimmer, Administrative Office Support Assistant

ADA30 Celebration and Survey

by Claudia Browner

Planning for the 30th anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 28, 2020 at the Missouri State Capitol is still underway at this time.

Our survey is still open to gather input from Missouri citizens on the successes and accomplishments of the ADA and to share visions for an accessible, inclusive future for the next 30 years of the ADA.

Please take a few minutes to participate in the [ADA30 survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRKZ2K2) and share your thoughts. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRKZ2K2>.



Virtual Travel Tips

by Claudia Browner

At a time when we are staying home and practicing social distancing, and students are learning online instead of being in the classroom, you may want to explore these great opportunities for virtual traveling.

Did you know you can visit many of the United States' National Parks using your computer? Visit [National Parks of the United States—Google Earth](https://www.google.com/earth/) to check them out!

Have you ever wanted to visit the famous art museums around the world? Here's your chance to visit them online at [Google Arts and Culture](https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en) at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll be heading to Arches National Park, and then the Museum of Modern Art.

Calling All Artists

The Governor's Council on Disability is now accepting submissions for this year's **[Disability Employment Awareness Month Poster Contest](https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/postercontest/)**.

Start working on your posters now. Illustrate the importance of workplace inclusion through your artwork. How has the ADA affected your ability to work? Feel free to reference the 30th anniversary of the ADA in your artwork. Open to all Missouri residents.

For more information, visit <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/postercontest/>



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| • May 15, 2020 | Last Day of Legislative Session |
| • June 18-21, 2020 | Leadership Development Program for Deaf/HH , Fulton |
| • June 23, 2020 | Missouri Mental Health Champions' Banquet , Jefferson City |
| • July 14-18, 2020 | Missouri Youth Leadership Forum , Columbia |
| • July 28, 2020 | ADA30— Anniversary Celebration, State Capitol , Jefferson City |



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 6, Number 3, June 2020

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

CELEBRATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

by Claudia Browner

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This year marks an important milestone for the disability community! On July 26, 2020, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Governor's Council on Disability, in collaboration with several partnering agencies, will be hosting an event to honor this important anniversary on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the first floor rotunda of the State Capitol in Jefferson City. Invited speakers include Governor Parson, Attorney General Eric Schmitt, Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin, and Missouri Youth Leadership Forum alumna Madelynn Hubbs. A local musician, Sam Doman, will provide a musical performance. In addition, we will honor and celebrate the legacy of former Council member and state legislator Chuck Graham, who passed away on May 19th.

More information about the [ADA30 celebration](#) and the tentative agenda can be found on our website at <https://disability.mo.gov/ada30.htm>.

Please participate in our survey to gather input from Missouri citizens on the successes and accomplishments of the ADA and to share visions for an inclusive, accessible future. If you have not taken this survey, please go to <https://surveymonkey.com/r/KRKZ2K2> to participate. The survey will close on June 30th.

If you are looking for ideas of what you can do to celebrate the ADA and promote inclusion in your own communities, please visit the ADA National Network's website at <https://www.adaanniversary.org/ideas-celebrate-ada>



DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH POSTER CONTEST

GCD is now accepting entries for this year's poster contest to raise awareness about the importance of employment inclusion. How has the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) impacted employment? Artists are encouraged to reference the 30th anniversary of the ADA in their artwork.

More information and Poster Contest Entry Forms are available at: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/PosterContest/>. Please submit your artwork before the August 1 deadline.

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION COMES TO A CLOSE

by Laura Mueth



The 2020 legislative session has now finished. What began as a typical session in March and April turned into a session the likes of which have not been seen before. Individual bills took a backseat to ensuring COVID-19 funds were allocated within the state and the fiscal year 2021 state budget was passed by the May 8th deadline. During the last two weeks of the session, many bills were combined with others in hopes of getting as many priorities passed as possible.

Several bills that have been tracked in GCD's weekly [Legislative Update](#) ended up in these bills. They include individuals being able to have a medical alert notification placed on a driver's license or state ID, fire protection districts having epi-pens, determination of organ donation receipt not being based on disability in most cases, living organ donor status being the sole factor in insurance decisions, breast cancer screening insurance mandates, the development of long-term care savings accounts to pay for designated beneficiaries long-term care expenses, raising awareness of the importance of organ donation in minority populations, designating Deaf Awareness Month, mental health awareness, designating Buddy Check 22 Day, commercial driver's license accommodations, personal care assistance services vendor requirements, and changes to state service dog laws which will be discussed in more detail below.

[House Bill 1387](#) was passed as a stand-alone bill. It allows electronic monitoring devices to be placed in the rooms of long-term care facility residents.

The law requiring all individuals operating or riding a motorcycle changed. The final version is different than the motorcycle helmet bills tracked this session. Individuals who are age 26 or older can operate a motorcycle without a helmet as long as they have a full license and have proper insurance. Those under age 26 or who have only a permit must wear a helmet while operating or riding a motorcycle. It also does not allow for any ordinances or laws which require helmets to be worn. The changes are part of [House Bill 1963](#).

As part of [Senate Bill 656](#), members of eligible military families who are not MO residents but are residing in MO as part of military service are to receive developmental disability services while in MO. These services are temporarily suspended for military family members who are MO residents but move out of state due to military service.

[Senate Bill 644](#) and part of [Senate Bill 656](#) change the definition of service dog in state statute and place the state definition more in line with federal law. Both bills ensure the definition is used in all service dog statutes. Mental health or psychiatric service dogs are added as a type of dog joining Guide Dog, Hearing Dog, Mobility Dog, Search and Rescue Dog, Medical Alert/Response Dog, and Service Dog Team. Misrepresentation of a service dog and assistance animal is also defined. Finally, they require our office to create an informational placard for businesses and brochures for business owners, landlords, and tenants. More specifics about those aspects will be shared in a future newsletter article should Governor Parson approve of the bill or bills.

As a reminder, in order for any bills passed by the General Assembly to become law, they must not be vetoed by Governor Parson.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

If you are looking for information and resources about the coronavirus pandemic, specifically in regards to individuals with disabilities, please visit our COVID-19 website. The information is frequently updated and new resources are being added as they become available.

<https://disability.mo.gov/covid-19.htm>

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS COMING THIS FALL

by Rachel Rackers

The 2020 [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum \(MO-YLF\)](#) was set to take place from July 14-18 at the University of Missouri campus in Columbia. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this summer's MO-YLF has been canceled. Our planning team is saddened by the cancellation, but the well-being and safety of everyone is important to all of us.

On a happier note, the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is offering four, one day Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) for students with disabilities (ages 16-21) this fall!

Our team is looking forward to connecting with youth throughout different parts of the state. During each RLF, the youth will get a small glimpse into what the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is and also build connections with local alumni, agencies, employers, etc.

Dates for 2020 Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) are:

September 26th in Jefferson City

October 3rd in Kansas City

October 17th in Springfield

November 7th in Cape Girardeau



Please help us share this exciting opportunity with students, parents, teachers and colleagues. Applications are now being accepted!

For more information or to apply, visit our website at <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylyf.htm>

CELEBRATING OUR 2020 GRADUATES

by Rachel Rackers



The 2019-2020 school year turned out very different than expected for many Missouri high school students, especially for the seniors who were looking forward to all of the memorable events that come with senior year, such as prom and, of course, graduation.

Sixteen of our Missouri Youth Leadership Forum alumni were seniors this year and we want to celebrate their accomplishments!

We present to you the 2020 High School graduates—Samuel Andersen, Sophie Bond, Courtney Bonner, Bailey Brees, Izzy Collins, Brett DeClue, Nikohlas Gash, Sean Hays, Malea Jackson, Nathaniel Lewis, Caden Martin, Lydia Olmsted, Alison Politte, Reece Pellegrin, Talon Pellegrin, and Duncan Waltrip.

Congratulations and best wishes for your future!!

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WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEBINAR SERIES

by Claudia Browner

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed on June 15 each year to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

In recognition of **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, there will be a series of four free webinars throughout the month of June that are designed to raise awareness of elder abuse risk factors in the current pandemic.

The 45-minute webinars are being hosted by The St. Louis Elder Financial Protection Multidisciplinary Team and The Oasis Institute. To register for the webinar(s), please email elderprotect.stlmdt@gmail.com

More information about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day can be found on the Administration for Community Living (ACL) website at <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/events-and-observances/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day>

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

Join us throughout the month of June for a series of free webinars designed to heighten awareness of elder abuse risk factors in the current pandemic.

- Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:00 – 12:45 pm
"Protecting the Vulnerable During a Pandemic - Practical Considerations"
- Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:00 – 12:45 pm
"Elder Financial Exploitation During a Pandemic"
- Friday, June 19, 2020 12:00 – 12:45 pm
"Social Isolation as a Risk Factor for Elder Abuse"
- Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:00 – 12:45 pm
"Initiation for Engagement: Fraud Bingo and Youtube Videos"

HOW TO JOIN A WEBINAR

THE WEBINARS WILL START PROMPTLY AT 12:00 PM ON EACH OF THE DATES MENTIONED ABOVE. TO REGISTER PLEASE REPLY TO elderprotect.stlmdt@gmail.com. PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH WEBINAR(S) YOU PLAN TO ATTEND WHEN REGISTERING.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2020
Ignite Elder Abuse
Plant a Seed for Change

WEBINAR DATES
June 3, 2020
June 10, 2020
June 19, 2020
June 24, 2020

HOSTED BY
The St. Louis Elder Financial Protection MDT AND
The Oasis Institute

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 28, 2020 [ADA30—Anniversary Celebration](#), State Capitol, Jefferson City
- Sept. 10-13, 2020 [Leadership Development Program for Deaf/HH](#), Fulton
- Sept. 26, 2020 [Regional Leadership Forum](#), Jefferson City
- October 3, 2020 [Regional Leadership Forum](#), Kansas City
- October 15-18, 2020 [MCDHH Interpreters Conference](#), Lake Ozark
- October 17, 2020 [Regional Leadership Forum](#), Springfield
- October 25-27, 2020 [MRA \(Missouri Rehab Association\) Conference](#), Lake Ozark
- November 7, 2020 [Regional Leadership Forum](#), Cape Girardeau



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 6, Number 4, August 2020

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

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MISSOURI CELEBRATES THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA

by Claudia Browner

All around the country, disability organizations have been celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this month and throughout the year, with webinars, documentaries, and events.



On Tuesday, July 28, 2020, Missouri celebrated this milestone with an event at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City and via Facebook live. Several dozen individuals attended the event at the capitol while thousands of others viewed it online.

The Governor's Council on Disability collaborated with the Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Missouri Assistive Technology, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living, Missouri Rehabilitation Association, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Missouri Mental Health Foundation, MU Pre-Employment Transition Services, Missouri Centers for Independent Living, and Paraquid to host this event. Thank you to all of the partner agencies!



Speakers included Governor Michael L. Parson and Jefferson City Mayor Carrie Tergin, who presented proclamations to celebrate the anniversary and designate July 26 as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day, followed by Attorney General Eric Schmitt. Amber Cheek with the MU Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, and Julie Brinkhoff with the Great Plains ADA Center spoke to honor and celebrate the legacy of former Council member and state legislator Chuck Graham.

Missouri Youth Leadership Forum alumna Madelyn Hubbs provided her perspective of a member of the ADA generation born after the passage of the ADA.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Sam Doman, a violinist from Wardsville, played classical music during a [slideshow of ADA Successes and Visions for the Future](#) highlighting the accomplishments and successes of the ADA in the last three decades and visions for the future of inclusion and accessibility.

More information about the [ADA30 celebration](#) and the slideshow can be found on our website at <https://disability.mo.gov/ada30.htm>.

For additional photos and a recording of the event, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissouriGCD/>



Photos: Page 1—Governor Parson, Madelyn Hubbs, Page 2—Sam Doman

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



This October, the United States Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), along with disability organizations around the country will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) with a range of events and activities centered on the theme "Increasing Access and Opportunity".

The ODEP news release about this year's event and ideas on how to participate in the celebration can be found at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20200630>

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH POSTER CONTEST

To raise awareness about NDEAM and the importance of employment inclusion for people with disabilities, the Governor's Council on Disability hosts its annual [Disability Employment Awareness Month Poster Contest](#).

Missouri artists are invited to illustrate through their artwork what inclusion in employment means to them and how the ADA has positively affected diversity in the workforce. Artists are encouraged to incorporate the 30th anniversary of the ADA into their posters.

The winning artwork will be featured in GCD's NDEAM poster for 2020, which will be distributed statewide and featured on our website, Facebook page, GCD Newsletter, and in GCD's annual report.

Detailed information and Poster Contest Entry Forms can be found at: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/PosterContest/>

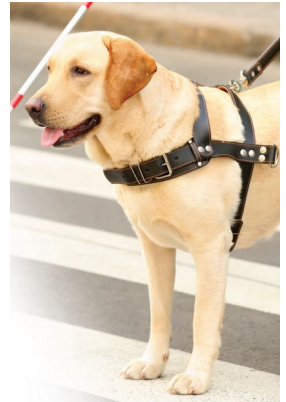
Please submit your artwork before the August 15 deadline.



MISSOURI SERVICE ANIMAL STATUTE CHANGES

by Laura Mueth

Beginning on August 28 Missouri service animal statutes will change. The definition of a service animal for all statutes will be “a dog that is being or has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability.”



The allowance of dogs “in training” is new to MO statute as it relates to public places, employment, and housing. Because the definition of service dog includes dogs who are in training and will apply to all statutes, [209.150](#) (public places), [209.162](#) (employment) and [209.190](#) (housing) will also include requirements to allow dogs “in training” in these environments.

Mental health/psychiatric service dogs are added to the list of types of service dogs in statute [209.200](#). In order to qualify as this type of service dog the owner (handler) must have a medical condition or disability listed in the current DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders).

Statute [209.204](#) now includes a list of actions that constitute misrepresentation of a service dog and adds misrepresenting an animal as an assistance animal for the purposes of housing as a misdemeanor. For those familiar with the current statute, the part related to service dogs is removed from the meaning of impersonating a person with a disability. Instead a new idea of misrepresentation of a dog as a service dog is included.

GCD is in the process of creating a window/door placard and flyers to meet the obligations set forth in [Senate Bills 644](#) and [656](#). A flyer will be designed for business owners. Another flyer will be for landlords and tenants. The placard will be created so that it can be placed on a business window or door.

We are also revising one of our service animal videos to include the definition of disability used in the bills and the [Service Animals Allowed booklet](#), which is already available on the Service Animals web page to reflect the new statutes. All of the items will be available at no cost to be downloaded and printed off the [Missouri Disability Portal Service Animals web page](#) at <https://disability.mo.gov/serviceanimals.htm>.

MO-YLF ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON CANDACE CUNNINGHAM

by Rachel Rackers



This month's [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) (MO-YLF) alumni spotlight is on Candace Cunningham. In July of 2009, Candace attended the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum, a leadership program for students with disabilities, and in the years following, she returned to participate as a team member. She is a graduate from the University of Central Missouri, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Youth and Human Service and Child & Family Development.

As Candace has overcome her own challenges and navigated through her own life experiences, she has found passion to help other young adults see their full potential through many different roles. She has served on the Jackson County Senate Bill 40 Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Board, APSE Board, the Summit Future Foundation, EITAS Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County and the Missouri Youth LEAD, Fellowship Participant in the LEND program, Peer to Peer Mentor Committee Chair, and Americorp Vista at the UMKC Propel Program. Candace is also a graduate of Missouri DD Council's Partners in Policy Making.

Most recently, Candace accepted the position as the People First of Missouri Coordinator at UMKC's Institute for Human Development. This position fits very well with Candace's passion for helping other individuals with different abilities to identify their strengths and achieve their full potential.

Candace is a great example of a leader, advocate and mentor who will help pave the way for others with disabilities!

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Chip Hailey, Joplin
- Rosemary Hendon, West Plains
- Katie Jones, St. Charles
- Kim Lackey, St. Louis
- Elijah Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Columbia
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Andrew Sartorius, Jefferson City
- Lesia Shelton, Buffalo
- Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Jefferson City
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Claudia Browner, Executive Director
- Laura Mueth, Senior Program Specialist
- Rachel Rackers, Senior Program Specialist
- Jessica Zimmer, Lead Administrative Support Assistant

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS: NEW DATE FOR JEFFERSON CITY

by Rachel Rackers

The [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) is offering four, one day Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) for students with disabilities (ages 16-21) this fall!

Our team is looking forward to connecting with youth throughout the different parts of the state. During each RLF, the youth will get a small glimpse into what the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is and also build connections with local alumni, agencies, employers, etc.

Dates for 2020 Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) are:

October 3rd in Kansas City

October 17th in Springfield

October 24th in Jefferson City

November 7th in Cape Girardeau



MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS

OCTOBER 3, 2020 KANSAS CITY
OCTOBER 17, 2020 SPRINGFIELD
OCTOBER 24, 2020 JEFFERSON CITY
NOVEMBER 7, 2020 CAPE GIRARDEAU

A ONE-DAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Apply Today!

573-751-2600

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>

To ensure the health and safety of all participants, safety precautions will be taken at the RLF to include PPE and social distancing. Should it become necessary to postpone the RLF due to changes in the COVID-19 pandemic, the alternate dates will be in Spring 2021.

Please help us share this exciting opportunity with students, parents, teachers and colleagues. Applications are now being accepted!

For more information or to apply, visit our website at

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>

GET PREPARED FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

by Claudia Browner

This year's elections are right around the corner and [Paraquad](#) is leading the 'Get Out the Vote' campaign to increase voter turnout among Missourians with disabilities.

The Missouri Disability Voter Coalition, a statewide group lead by Paraquad's public policy & advocacy department, has created a series of 'Breaking Down Barriers' voter education presentations geared towards people with disabilities and people who work with them to explain why voting is important, the registration process, what to expect on Election Day, accessible voting, absentee voting, and your rights as a Missouri voter.

To participate in one of the upcoming presentations, please visit their website at <https://www.paraquad.org/voter-education-training/> or contact Briana Conley at Paraquad at bconley@paraquad.org or 314-289-4304.



The **Missouri Secretary of State's "Go Vote Missouri"** webpage also offers comprehensive information on Elections and Voting. There, you can find

out if you are registered to vote, register, learn about different voting options, how to vote absentee, or to find the location of your polling place. To visit the Go Vote Missouri website, go to <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri>



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability



Volume 6, Number 5, October 2020

[Governor's Council on Disability](#)

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

by Claudia Browner

Each year in October, the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), along with disability organizations and agencies throughout the country observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month—NDEAM. NDEAM celebrates America's workers with disabilities and reminds employers of the importance of inclusive hiring practices.



This year marks the 75th anniversary of NDEAM, along with the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 100th anniversary of Vocational Rehabilitation!

The theme for NDEAM 2020 is "Increasing Access and Opportunity".

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) provides an annual educational

NDEAM exhibit throughout the month of October, along with various other activities, to raise awareness and provide education about the workforce contributions of workers with disabilities.

This year, GCD is offering a [Virtual NDEAM Exhibit](#), and I invite you to visit our website to check it out at <https://disability.mo.gov/NDEAM.htm> and learn information about the background and history of NDEAM, disability history, GCD's participation in NDEAM activities, ideas to celebrate, employment resources for Missourians with disabilities, and other resources.

The GCD also raises awareness about the importance of employment inclusion through its annual [Disability Employment Awareness Month poster contest](#).

The winner of this year's poster contest is Susie Dains, a young woman from Lake Ozark who attends the Bear POWER program at Missouri State University in Springfield.

To find out more about the contest, or download a copy of the poster, please visit

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/PosterContest/>



Deadline Oct 7th
Register to Vote —your right and responsibility

You can't vote unless you register. Don't wait for the deadline!

It takes about two minutes! Woof! It takes longer to walk me!

Register to vote NOW Deadline is Oct 7th
sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register or call 866-OUR-VOTE

[Watch the video about Missouri Voter Preparedness](#)

[More on Voting](#)

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES POLL NOW OPEN

by Laura Mueth



GCD is preparing for 2021. Please assist us in our legislative activities by completing the Legislative Priorities Poll. The responses will be used as we interact with all legislators before and during the 2021 legislative session. By completing the Poll you will help to ensure representatives and senators hear from all segments of the disability community (individuals with disabilities, family members, friends, service providers, educators, employers, agencies, health professionals, etc.) and from all 114 counties as well as the City of St. Louis.

The poll can be completed [online](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2R7VTB) using Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N2R7VTB>. It is also available in PDF formats which can be filled out electronically or printed and completed by hand. These versions can be accessed at [Annual Legislative Priorities Poll](https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/legislative_priorities_poll.htm) at https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/legislative_priorities_poll.htm or

by contacting the GCD office at 800-877-8249. Assistance with completion is also available by contacting the GCD office.

Please return all Polls by **Friday, November 6, 2020 at 5:00**. Hard copies can be returned via fax (573-526-4109), email (gcd@oa.mo.gov), and mail (Governor's Council on Disability, 301 West High Street, Room 620, PO Box 1668, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1668).

SHOW ME HOPE

by Claudia Browner



The State of Missouri is offering a Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) known as 'Show Me Hope' that is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) in response to federally declared disasters. This program is available to all Missourians and provides local community counselors to teach coping and stress management skills to anyone dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty caused by the events such as the current COVID pandemic. The CCP helps individuals and communities recover from disasters through community outreach and access to resources including mental health services.

Some of the services offered include individual and group crisis counseling, community networking and support, educational materials, referrals and resources, as well as a Disaster Distress Hotline.

Please visit the Show Me Hope website at <https://www.moshowmehope.org> for more information.

One of the services offered by the Department of Mental Health throughout the remainder of the year are weekly, interactive 30-minute **DMH CARES** webinars that focus on self care, mindfulness, emotional wellbeing, and coping skills for stressful situations. These webinars are offered free of charge.



DMH CARES

For more information and the register for any of the upcoming webinars, visit the DMH CARES website at <https://www.moshowmehope.org/index.php/outreach-resources/>

MO-YLF ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON MADELYN HUBBS

by Rachel Rackers

This month's Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) alumni spotlight is on Madelyn Hubbs. In July of 2017, Madelyn attended the [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#), a leadership program for students with disabilities, and returned last year to participate as a staff member. She has always been one to prove to others that a disability doesn't stop a person from achieving their goals, and continues to break down those barriers still today.

Madelyn is currently a third year Psychology Pre-Occupational Therapy major and Education minor at Maryville University in Saint Louis. She works as a residential assistant for first year students in the dorms on campus. She is also the Activities Coordinator for the Students of Occupational Therapy Club, as well as a Teacher's Assistant for Anatomy labs. Even with Madelyn's busy schedule with school, she still finds time to be involved in different ways to help others advocate.



She is the Vice President for Maryville's Disability Advocacy club, which is open to all students, disabled or not, and is designed to break down the barriers that surround the disability community. Also, she continues to run a YouTube channel helping others who experience limb loss like herself gain the confidence and skills to conquer every day challenges. She has spoken to thousands of students and adults throughout the St. Louis area to promote disability awareness. On July 28, as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Madelyn gave a speech at the Missouri state capitol on her perspective as someone born after the ADA.

Madelyn has long been a supporter of Shriners Hospitals for Children. Years ago she started raising money for Shriners programs, organizing an annual toy drive and volunteering as a patient ambassador. Madelyn finished her year as one of Shriners Hospitals for Children National Patient Ambassadors in July; however, still continues to represent the hospital at various speaking engagements. During her time at a National Patient Ambassador, she got to participate and be involved in several once in a lifetime experiences. Last year, she got to ride on the Shriner's float in the Rose Bowl parade! She also had the opportunity to meet the players who were playing in the Shrine Bowl.

We are excited to see what the future will hold for Madelyn.

GET READY TO VOTE

by Claudia Browner

Have you registered to vote?

It's not too late. The deadline for registration for the November elections is **October 7!** Register now at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>



Do you know about your different voting options?

- **In-Person Voting**—Find your polling place at <https://voteroutreach.sos.mo.gov/PRD/VoterOutreach/VOSearch.aspx>
- **Curbside Voting at your polling place**—Ask a poll worker to bring a ballot to you. To find out about the accessibility of your polling place, contact your local election authority at 1-800-669-8683 or <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/localelectionauthority>
- **Absentee Voting**—Deadline to request absentee ballot: October 21 by 5 p.m. Return in person or by mail by 7 p.m. on election day.
- **Mail-In Voting**—Deadline to request mail-in ballot: October 21 by 5 p.m. Return by US mail by 7 p.m. on election day.

For more detailed information on voting options and requirements, please visit

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/ElectionGoVoteMissouri//2020VotingOptions.pdf>

To watch a video on **Missouri Voter Preparedness** by the Dance the Vote Project, featuring individuals with disabilities explaining voting options, please go to <https://youtu.be/jzw1XZh6yts>

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D, Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Chip Hailey, Joplin
- Rosemary Hendon, West Plains
- Katie Jones, St. Charles
- Kim Lackey, St. Louis
- Elijah Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Columbia
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Andrew Sartorius, Jefferson City
- Lesia Shelton, Buffalo
- Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Jefferson City
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

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- Laura Mueth, Senior Program Specialist
- Rachel Rackers, Senior Program Specialist
- Jessica Zimmer, Lead Administrative Support Assistant

How DSS HAS FACED THE COVID CHALLENGE

by Claudia Browner

The [Missouri Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) exists to help Missourians build capacity to live safe, healthy, and productive lives. Click the link below to find out how DSS has adapted to the challenges of COVID-19 to assure continued service to the citizens of Missouri.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MOGOV/bulletins/2a0e541>

Services to support Missourians' basic needs include:

- Food assistance
- Home energy assistance
- Child care assistance
- Employment assistance



More information is available at <https://mydss.mo.gov/services>

APPLY NOW FOR REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS

by Rachel Rackers

The [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) is now accepting applications for four, one-day Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) for students with disabilities (ages 16-21)!

Our team is looking forward to connecting with youth throughout the different parts of the state. During each RLF, the youth will get a small glimpse into what the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is and also build connections with local alumni, agencies, employers, etc.

The safety and health of our program participants and staff are a priority. Therefore, we had to postpone the RLFs to the spring of 2021 due to the recent increase in COVID cases in schools and communities. Those who applied for the fall events are still invited to participate in the spring, along with new applicants.

The *tentative* dates for the Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) are:

- March 13, 2021 — Jefferson City
- March 20, 2021 — Cape Girardeau
- April 10, 2021 — Kansas City
- April 17, 2021 — Springfield



Please help us share this exciting opportunity with students, parents, teachers and colleagues. Applications are now being accepted for all RLFs!

For more information about the Regional Leadership Forums and apply, visit our website at: <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm> Questions? Call 573-751-2600.



GCD: Governor's Council on Disability

Volume 6, Number 6, December 2020

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

by Claudia Browner



The Governor's Council on Disability wishes all of our readers a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year!

Looking back at 2020, I think we can all agree that it has been a challenging year in many ways. Like many others, the [Governor's Council on Disability](#) (GCD) had to postpone or cancel events, and find new ways to do business while dealing with the

fears and concerns of the pandemic. But when I think of a "theme" or defining words for the year, I think of RECOGNITION, APPRECIATION, and INNOVATION.

This year, the nation has celebrated and recognized some important milestone anniversaries: 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 45 years of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA, 75 years of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and 100 years of Vocational Rehabilitation. We have held events to recognize and appreciate the work that has been done and look for innovative and creative ideas to continue the work into the future.

The GCD has found alternative and innovative ways to do business through remote work and virtual meetings and events. For the first time ever, we have recognized the winners of the annual [Inclusion](#) and [Youth Leadership](#) awards with a virtual award presentation at the November Council meeting, and during the upcoming legislative session, we will be offering virtual Q&A sessions for the [Legislative Education Project](#) (see page 2).

While we are hopeful that we will be able to return to a new normal in 2021, the GCD team has learned that we are adaptable and able to rise to the challenge, and I appreciate that!

RECOGNIZING LEADERS IN INCLUSION AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Who has made a difference for people with disabilities in their communities in 2020? Who has gone the extra mile to advocate for and include those living with disabilities?

The GCD is seeking nominations now to recognize the 2020 leaders in [Inclusion](#) and [Youth Leadership](#). Please help us recognize, honor and celebrate the individuals, agencies, and organizations that have demonstrated leadership and inclusion by improving the lives of individuals in the disability community. Submit your nominations now. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2021. To nominate, please visit:

Inclusion Award—<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/inclwin.htm>

Youth Leadership Award—<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/youthleadershipaward.htm>

Accepting Nominations Now!

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Recognizing Leaders in Inclusion and Youth Leadership

Questions?
573.751.2600/800-877-8249

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/>

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES POLL REPORT

by Laura Mueth



GCD recently conducted its annual Legislative Priorities Poll to determine the level of importance disability related issues have to Missourians impacted by disability through their personal and/or professional lives. Thank you to everyone who participated. The results have already been shared with members of our Council and via GCD's listservs and social media accounts. Legislators and executive branch staff will receive the results in the coming weeks. The report detailing all the results can be accessed at [2020 Legislative Priorities Poll Report](#).

The Council used the results from the Poll which included three hundred seventy-two responses from individuals in fifty-four counties in Missouri to determine our legislative priorities for the 2021 session. They are:

1. Plans for public emergencies and disasters ensuring needs of people with disabilities are met
2. All public buildings having evacuation plans for all people with disabilities
3. Accessible voting machine provided at each polling location to comply with federal law
4. Private insurance hearing aid coverage
5. The increasing cost of medications

More information can be found at https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/legislative_priorities_poll.htm

2021 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION PROJECT

by Laura Mueth

The 2021 Legislative Education Project will look different from past years. Due to COVID-19, LEP on the Road and LEP at the Capitol will not be offered.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to view the modules and videos on the [Legislative Education Project](#) page of the GCD website to increase their knowledge. Please visit <https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/LEP.htm>

Topics covered are:

- Navigating the House and Senate Websites
- Your Elected Officials and General Assembly
- Understanding How a Bill Becomes a Law in Missouri
- Giving Testimony at a House and Senate Hearing
- Building an Effective Relationship with Your Legislators
- Accessible Voting



After viewing one or all of the videos and modules, individuals and groups may schedule a virtual Q&A session with a GCD staff member to answer questions. Please contact Laura Mueth at Laura.Mueth@oa.mo.gov to schedule. Scheduling is available January through May. The virtual sessions will be provided free of charge via WebEx.

2021 Legislative Session—101st General Assembly

December 1, 2020

Pre-filing of bills begins

January 6, 2021

First day of Legislative Session

MO-YLF ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ON DANIEL ANDERSEN

by Rachel Rackers

This month's Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MO-YLF) alumni spotlight is on Daniel Andersen. In July of 2015, Daniel attended the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum, a leadership program for students with disabilities. Daniel has a strong mission to connect people with disabilities with those who don't, and to help others better understand life with a disability.

Daniel is the current Co-Chair of the MYLIFE Alumni Association. He and his brother, Samuel, have served in this role for several years and hope to build the association into a strong network for young leaders with disabilities as they become advocates in their communities. Daniel is graduating this year from Brigham Young University with a degree in Journalism and looks forward to law school as he applies this year.

Daniel is a staunch supporter of disability advocacy, speaking to groups about inclusions and accessibility since he graduated high school. He has spoken to many universities nationwide as a university ambassador for on-campus housing and has attended advocacy conferences in Washington D.C. He plans to continue this effort as he builds his network to become an author and public speaker.

He is currently the host of a school news podcast and hopes to use his journalism skills to promote the stories of people around him so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of learning from many diverse and distinct perspectives.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM—APPLY NOW

by Rachel Rackers

MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUMS

MARCH 13, 2021	JEFFERSON CITY
MARCH 20, 2021	CAPE GIRARDEAU
APRIL 10, 2021	KANSAS CITY
APRIL 17, 2021	SPRINGFIELD

A ONE-DAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Apply Today!

573-751-2600

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm>

To ensure the health and safety of all participants, safety precautions will be taken at the RLF to include PPE and social distancing.

The [Missouri Youth Leadership Forum](#) is still accepting applications for four, one-day Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) for students with disabilities (ages 16-21)! **Don't miss the deadline for applications—January 31, 2021!**

Our team is looking forward to connecting with youth throughout the different parts of the state. During each RLF, the youth will get a small glimpse into what the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is and build connections with local alumni, agencies, employers, etc.

These one-day events were originally scheduled for fall 2020, but the safety and health of our program participants and staff are a priority. Therefore, we had to postpone the RLFs to the spring of 2021 due to the recent increase in COVID cases in schools and communities. Those who applied for the fall events are still invited to participate in the spring, along with new applicants.

The tentative dates for the Regional Leadership Forums (RLF) are:

March 13, 2021	—	Jefferson City
March 20, 2021	—	Cape Girardeau
April 10, 2021	—	Kansas City
April 17, 2021	—	Springfield

Please help us share this exciting opportunity with students, parents, teachers and colleagues!

For more information about the Regional Leadership Forums and apply, visit our website at:

<https://disability.mo.gov/gcd/ylf.htm> Questions? Call 573-751-2600.

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Members

- Yvonne Wright, Chair, New Bloomfield
- Joan Bergstrom, Ed. D., Lee's Summit
- Charles Comstock, Kirksville
- Betty Davidson, Ph.D., St. Louis
- Ronald Hack, St. Louis
- Chip Hailey, Joplin
- Rosemary Hendon, West Plains
- Katie Jones, St. Charles
- Kim Lackey, St. Louis
- Elijah Mayfield, Jefferson City
- DeAnna Noriega, Columbia
- Susan Orton, Creve Coeur
- Andrew Sartorius, Jefferson City
- Lesia Shelton, Buffalo
- Opeoluwa Sotonwa, Jefferson City
- James Trout, St. Louis
- Robert Wallace, St. Louis

Missouri Governor's Council on Disability Staff Members

- Claudia Browner, Executive Director
- Laura Mueth, Senior Program Specialist
- Rachel Rackers, Senior Program Specialist
- Jessica Zimmer, Lead Administrative Support Assistant

GCD TEAM MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

by Claudia Browner



The Missouri Council of the Blind has recognized GCD team member Laura Mueth with the 2020 Ellis M. Forshee Award for Outstanding Legislative Work. The award recognizes Laura's efforts in keeping individuals living with disabilities informed about pending legislation affecting the disability community.

During the legislative session, Laura publishes a weekly [Legislative Update](#) to summarize disability-related pending legislation. She also educates individuals and organizations about the legislative process in Missouri and how to become involved in policy-making through the [Legislative Education Project](#) (see page 2).

Congratulations, Laura!

CELEBRATING SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations on your work anniversary with the Governor's Council on Disability!

10 years

Laura Mueth

15 years

Claudia Browner

RECOGNIZING CAREGIVERS

by Claudia Browner

Being a caregiver can be demanding and challenging, especially during a pandemic.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has a web page dedicated to resources and other helpful tips for those who are providing care to their family members or other loved ones.



DHSS is also asking for nominations for the Missouri Caregiver of the Year, an initiative that recognizes and honors those invaluable unpaid caregivers in our Missouri communities.

To learn more about the Caregiver of the Year initiative, and to find caregiving resources, please visit the website at

www.health.mo.gov/seniors/caregiver.php.

Tips for Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings

Read information and guidelines issued by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>